



TRANSCRIPT
COMMUNITY FORUM: COVID-19
May 8, 2020 • 10 am via WebEx

1 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:00:15.714 --> 00:00:22.135

"Good morning. This is Andy Reese with DDS. Sorry that we were a bit delayed getting started today.

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00:00:22.135 --> 00:00:31.405

We had some challenges between the conference line and our log in. We have about sixty people with us today.

3 - 4

00:00:32.935 --> 00:00:34.225 - 00:00:34.225 --> 00:00:35.454

I'll just briefly, as people are aware,

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00:00:35.784 --> 00:00:50.125

our data is now shared on the Mayor's website and what it shows as of yesterday is that there were a hundred and forty five people who had tested positive with twenty deaths

6 - 7

00:00:51.505 --> 00:00:52.284 - 00:00:53.094 --> 00:00:59.725

and twenty two people who have recovered. Just to also give a little more context,

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00:01:01.314 --> 00:01:10.525

we currently have nineteen people who are in hospital, thirty two people who were in the hospital and successfully discharged.

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00:01:10.795 --> 00:01:21.02

And there are seventy four people who had been diagnosed with COVID related, with COVID, but have not required hospitalization.

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00:01:21.025 --> 00:01:30.805

Some have been asymptomatic, others have been receiving care at home. So,



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00:01:31.614 --> 00:01:41.064

and among our provider staff, we have one hundred and forty three staff who have tested positive.

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00:01:41.515 --> 00:01:47.185

We are working with providers to get clarity about the period of time

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00:01:47.185 --> 00:02:02.155

that is, so that we can be clear about how many staff are impacted at a given period of time, in terms of their ability to work related to COVID. And unfortunately, among the provider community we have had three deaths.

14

00:02:04.344 --> 00:02:17.425

So we have just a few questions this week.”

~ Crystal Thomas:

“Good morning. Can we go visit the places that are opening up, like Ocean City, Maryland?”

15 – 16 ~ Director Andrew Reese:

00:02:20.365 --> 00:02:20.814 - 00:02:22.705 --> 00:02:23.784

“So, in the District

17 - 18

00:02:23.814 --> 00:02:38.754 - 00:02:39.324 --> 00:02:42.474

we still have a stay at home order and so people really should be limiting their travel out of their homes to essential activities and driving to the Maryland

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00:02:42.474 --> 00:02:52.854

Shore, I don't think qualifies as essential. Getting out in your neighborhood and getting exercise certainly would.

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00:02:54.564 --> 00:03:00.294

I recognize this is really challenging and as time goes on people need to be,

21 - 23

00:03:00.564 --> 00:03:00.865 - 00:03:01.164 --> 00:03:05.365

you know, it's like, decisions that you'll be making and we are right now,

24 - 25

00:03:05.395 --> 00:03:10.615 - 00:03:11.275 --> 00:03:11.664

the Mayor is working on a plan for reopening DC and, you know,

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00:03:11.664 --> 00:03:23.754

we're considering all these decisions about how do you open things back up in a safe way and those are the kinds of things that each of us are going to have to think about as we move forward because as the,

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00:03:23.905 --> 00:03:32.844

as the conditions allow, and those conditions would have to be that we see two weeks of declining cases in DC,

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00:03:35.094 --> 00:03:37.794

then we can start to venture out more,

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00:03:38.155 --> 00:03:40.705

but for a very long time,

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00:03:40.914 --> 00:03:52.375

we are all going to have to be conscious of ensuring that we're taking all the steps necessary to protect ourselves and other people.

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31 - 32

00:03:52.710 --> 00:03:53.550 - 00:03:53.814 --> 00:03:59.844

Which, as a reminder includes frequently washing your hands with soap and water, doing everything

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00:03:59.844 --> 00:04:01.794

you cannot to touch your face,

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00:04:02.875 --> 00:04:17.814

certainly making sure that, to the extent, you have to scratch your face if there's an itch, that you wash your hands first and then do it and that you keep a distance from people of at least six feet. That would be if you hold your arms out,

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00:04:17.814 --> 00:04:27.444

and they hold their arms out, that your fingers don't touch. So that you stay a good distance away from each other. And if you go to public places that you put on a face covering.

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00:04:29.035 --> 00:04:38.995

Because, what we're learning is that there are many people who contract this, and don't know that they have it. And that could be you or me.

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00:04:39.355 --> 00:04:50.004

And so we need to make sure that when we go out in public, in the event we are one of those people who got it, and does not feel sick at all, that we're not passing it on to other people.

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00:04:50.485 --> 00:04:56.485

And so, that same thing would go about going out to the beach over the weekend. It's going to be really cold this weekend.

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00:04:56.485 --> 00:05:06.024

It's really not a beach weekend anyway, but going out to the beach, you know, you get close to people and people may feel fine, but that doesn't mean that they are fine.

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00:05:06.774 --> 00:05:14.574

So, like I say, it's going to be a long time of us adjusting to a different way of life and we need to be thinking about how we do that."

41 ~ Crystal Thomas:

00:05:16.134 --> 00:05:20.454

"Can you get tested without having symptoms? Do you need a doctor's note for tests?"

42 ~ Director Andrew Reese:

00:05:23.485 --> 00:05:31.464

"So, I, I get confused about dates because my days are very long.

43 - 44

00:05:31.915 --> 00:05:33.204 - 00:05:33.750 --> 00:05:47.274

So I, I think it was the week before last, that there was a change made in the recommendations from the city from the DC Health Department regarding testing and so a person

45 - 46

00:05:47.274 --> 00:05:47.904 - 00:05:48.720 --> 00:05:50.875

now, who is considered to be a high risk,

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00:05:51.235 --> 00:05:56.185

which would be a person over sixty five or with some underlying health issues,

48 - 50

00:05:56.185 --> 00:05:56.665 - 00:05:57.834 --> 00:05:59.095 - 00:06:03.264

like, respiratory issues, breathing issues, asthma, heart issues,

51 -52

00:06:03.264 --> 00:06:04.704 - 00:06:05.035 --> 00:06:06.235

high blood pressure, diabetes.

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00:06:07.134 --> 00:06:21.805

So, these kinds of, if someone is at higher risk for having serious complications from COVID and they have had a contact with someone, then they can be tested.

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00:06:22.524 --> 00:06:27.595

There are some public sites where people can get tested.

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00:06:28.165 --> 00:06:42.714

And one of those is right across the street from the metro, across from the Fort Totten Metro

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00:06:44.785 --> 00:06:45.264 - 00:06:49.644 --> 00:07:00.235

And, these sites require an appointment. I'm going to, while I'm talking here since we don't have a lot of questions. So people can go to [Coronavirus.dc.gov](https://coronavirus.dc.gov),

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00:07:01.045 --> 00:07:03.355

and get information about testing,

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00:07:04.375 --> 00:07:12.475

which I will tell you about right now. There are a number of public sites that you can go to. When you go to a public site,

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00:07:12.625 --> 00:07:19.555

you don't need to have a doctor's note in order to get tested,

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00:07:22.524 --> 00:07:27.625

but you do need to call in advance, and let me just tell you that

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00:07:29.995 --> 00:07:40.944

some of the information you will see on the website in terms of testing is that you can expect to wait between forty five and seventy five minutes.



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63 - 64

00:07:41.035 --> 00:07:41.274 - 00:07:41.274 --> 00:07:43.314

So, if you're going to go get public testing,

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00:07:45.625 --> 00:07:47.305

make sure you're prepared to wait.

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00:07:47.485 --> 00:07:48.985

They don't have public restrooms,

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00:07:49.345 --> 00:07:58.884

make sure you go prepared to wait. The Bertie Backus campus of UDC, which is right across,

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00:07:59.154 --> 00:08:08.605

it's on South Dakota Avenue. For people to go to Project Action, it's very close to that. They have testing Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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00:08:08.875 --> 00:08:21.235

It's drive up testing and you need to call these places for an appointment, and the, the telephone number for Bertie

70 -79

00:08:21.235 --> 00:08:23.514 - 00:08:28.944 --> 00:08:34.495

Backus testing is 443-997-9537. Howard University has just started doing testing,

80 -89

00:08:34.524 --> 00:08:35.154 - 00:08:42.745 --> 00:08:44.664

in ward seven, and you can call 202-865-2119 and,

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00:08:44.664 --> 00:08:50.034

as I said, on the coronavirus.dc.gov website,



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00:08:50.034 --> 00:08:52.195

there's a lot more information about testing.”

92 ~ **Kirk Dobson:**

00:08:53.664 --> 00:08:54.294

“Can you repeat the number please?”

93 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:08:56.754 --> 00:09:03.384

“The Howard University number is two zero two, eight, sixty, five, two one, one nine.

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00:09:07.375 --> 00:09:20.424

I do want to add one more thing, because as people have talked about getting tested, someone who has been in these meetings with me over the last week, several meetings. Someone from DC Health has repeatedly said,

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00:09:22.225 --> 00:09:35.034

it would be far better for you to go to your to, for you to call your own doctor. What's most important in terms of people staying healthy, is if they have a primary care physician and a medical home.

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00:09:35.455 --> 00:09:49.225

So that they have a physician who knows them, who knows their health needs, and is helping them stay healthy right now and address, you know, those underlying health issues that can cause someone to be a higher risk.

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00:09:49.495 --> 00:10:03.924

So the best thing to do, if you have questions about testing, is to call your own primary care physicians and speak with them about it. Because my expectation anyone supported by DDS, should have a primary care



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00:10:03.924 --> 00:10:17.815

Physician.

~ Crystal Thomas:

“Do people who are at a higher risk for COVID need a doctor's note, or can they get tested straight away?”

~ Director Andrew Reese:

“I think I just answered that.

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00:10:17.815 --> 00:10:23.274

But, so folks who can get tested at the public health sites, don't need a doctor's note there.

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00:10:23.514 --> 00:10:36.325

But the recommendation really is that you call your own doctor and coordinate through them. Just because, they're going to address all of your health needs and they're going to talk to you about staying healthy in all areas,

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00:10:36.325 --> 00:10:39.745

not just about preventing COVID-19.”

102 ~ Crystal Thomas:

00:10:41.485 --> 00:10:52.884

“Can everybody take the antibody test?”

~ Director Andrew Reese:

“So we've heard a lot lately about an antibody test. Do we have DC health on the line? So,

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00:10:55.044 --> 00:11:09.894

one has to be very cautious about antibody tests right now. I'm giving you what I've heard from Dr. Nesbitt, from D.C.

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00:11:09.894 --> 00:11:24.534

Health. People may have read recently that the FDA is now kind of cracking down on a number of different companies that have done antibody testing.

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00:11:24.774 --> 00:11:35.245

Because there were a number of different antibody tests that came out recently and people have gone out and gotten them. And the accuracy of those tests have been a concern.

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00:11:35.664 --> 00:11:40.375

There is antibody testing coming to the District

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00:11:41.575 --> 00:11:56.514

very soon, I thought it was even by the end of this week, but we're at the end of the week and I haven't heard yet. We will be ending at eleven, so that people can hear the Mayors press conference. Maybe there will be an update about it, but there is an FDA approved antibody test

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00:11:56.514 --> 00:12:06.985

that will be coming to the District. So, people should be cautious in getting antibody testing to make sure that they're getting antibody testing that is accurate."

109 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:12:14.004 --> 00:12:28.735

"Has there been any thought about how DDS and the providers are going to reintegrate their people back into the community? For those who attend day programs, how would their staff work with them in terms of social distancing between each other? Where

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00:12:28.735 --> 00:12:29.845

in the community

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00:12:30.115 --> 00:12:36.205

they will go and at what point timeframe will the disability community be exposed to the community?"

112 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:12:37.674 --> 00:12:40.975

"Those are all very good questions.

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00:12:41.575 --> 00:12:53.184

So, as I said, the Mayor has been working on, she's put together the advisory group on the reopen DC advisory group.

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00:12:55.105 --> 00:12:59.455

We have a small focus group conversation tomorrow afternoon,

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00:12:59.965 --> 00:13:00.565

or tomorrow,

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00:13:00.595 --> 00:13:13.375

late tomorrow morning with some people to begin talking about some of these issues regarding what reopening looks like. We are beginning to have meetings between DDS

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00:13:13.375 --> 00:13:27.654

leadership and provider agency leadership and we'll be engaging with the people we support to begin talking about what does this look like because I think this question of what will day services look like

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00:13:27.654 --> 00:13:33.565

going forward is a very good question for a very long time.

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00:13:34.855 --> 00:13:35.274

You know,

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00:13:36.235 --> 00:13:50.754

we're going to need to ensure that people are able to maintain social distancing that suggests some challenges for programs that are facility based where people stay in the

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00:13:50.784 --> 00:13:56.065

building all day, in terms of being able to engage in activities there, in a safe manner.

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00:13:56.725 --> 00:14:02.634

But it also presents challenges if the interested people have, has them going into the community.

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00:14:03.625 --> 00:14:13.884

And so, you know, as we begin to talk now about things opening up, we need to start thinking about and talking about what do people's days look like.

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00:14:14.455 --> 00:14:19.315

And, you know, it's interesting to me that

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00:14:20.875 --> 00:14:33.115

I had heard one person say that these conditions kind of make them feel like being back and Forest Haven, where you're not allowed to go out essentially, without permission.

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00:14:34.195 --> 00:14:47.034

What's, what's interesting about it is that's what we're all experiencing now. So it isn't people with disabilities who are being prevented from going out.

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00:14:47.065 --> 00:14:59.365

It really is the whole city and it should be the whole well, most of the country, there are some areas where they've not been as affected. So there may not be community spread and it may be safer, but in D. C.

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00:14:59.365 --> 00:15:05.274

right now, venturing out, getting on a bus, getting on the metro, all of those things present risks.

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00:15:05.695 --> 00:15:17.394

All of those things present an opportunity for a person to come in contact, direct personal contact with another person who may have COVID and not even know it and could transmit it.

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00:15:17.695 --> 00:15:17.965

So,

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00:15:17.965 --> 00:15:18.235

we,

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00:15:18.264 --> 00:15:23.184

we all have to be really careful at this time and,

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00:15:23.875 --> 00:15:24.294

you know,

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00:15:24.294 --> 00:15:28.764

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it's our hope, that by being careful in this way,

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00:15:29.004 --> 00:15:35.154

we're going to see the numbers begin to come down in DC and slowly open things back up.

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00:15:36.384 --> 00:15:49.945

And that's the issue is that we need to talk about what does slowly opening things back up, look like, and, you know, the Mayor has the reopen DC group that's looking at how we reopen.

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00:15:50.304 --> 00:16:00.985

But when we reopen is all about the facts on the ground. It's about when we're at a place in the District where we see our numbers coming down and where it's safe.

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00:16:02.514 --> 00:16:09.115

And what we need to do together now is be developing that same kind of plan for what is

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00:16:09.115 --> 00:16:10.375

this going to look like,

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00:16:10.674 --> 00:16:11.034

and the

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00:16:11.034 --> 00:16:14.125

when will be decided by the facts,

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00:16:14.154 --> 00:16:19.495

in terms of the science of how safe it is to engage in particular activities."

143 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:16:25.139 --> 00:16:34.825

"Please provide a breakdown of the data information by residence type."

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~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

“Oh, okay. I can do that. It'll take a minute,

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00:16:34.825 --> 00:16:35.004

so

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00:16:35.004 --> 00:16:36.654

if we could go onto another question,

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00:16:36.894 --> 00:16:44.544

and then I'll give you your answer.”

~ **Kirk Dobson:**

“ The next question is about our staff,

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00:16:44.575 --> 00:16:45.115

the staff,

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00:16:45.264 --> 00:16:52.945

our staff fatalities with COVID-19.”

~ **Crystal Thomas:**

“Is that a question or statement?”

~ **Kirk Dobson:**

“There was four staff reported last week

149

00:16:53.065 --> 00:17:01.465

and three for this week.”

~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

“Did you ask? Or are we?”

150 ~ **Kirk Dobson:**

00:17:01.914 --> 00:17:02.154

“Yeah.”

151 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:17:24.625 --> 00:17:25.525

“So I'm sorry, yes.

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00:17:28.015 --> 00:17:35.454

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The report last week that they were four people was an error and there have been three fatalities

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00:17:35.484 --> 00:17:45.775
of provider staff.

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00:17:49.765 --> 00:17:50.275
Okay,

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00:17:50.275 --> 00:17:50.815
so,

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00:17:53.035 --> 00:17:55.525
by provider type,

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00:17:56.309 --> 00:18:01.404
in terms of COVID-19 diagnoses,

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00:18:02.394 --> 00:18:13.615
there were sixty six people who were in supported living, forty eight people in ICF or intermediate care facilities,

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00:18:14.545 --> 00:18:21.535
Twenty two people in residential habilitation (ResHab), six people who were in their own homes,

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00:18:22.375 --> 00:18:36.444
two people in a host home and one person who is in a nursing home. And the

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00:18:39.984 --> 00:18:54.894
deaths by provider type have been, one person in a host home,

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00:18:58.045 --> 00:19:00.025
two people in their own home,

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00:19:04.585 --> 00:19:12.775

six people in supported living, one person in a residential habilitation placement,
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00:19:19.974 --> 00:19:34.644

and eleven people in ICF's."

165 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:19:34.644 --> 00:19:42.115

"Is anything being done to create a crisis team focused on prevention of continued spread among those supported by DDS?"

166 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:19:44.035 --> 00:19:52.404

"So Winslow will address this and talk about the work that his team is doing to make sure that,

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00:19:52.734 --> 00:19:52.974

you know,

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00:19:52.974 --> 00:20:01.884

and part of what concerns me about talking about a crisis team is, we've had over, sorry,

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00:20:07.855 --> 00:20:18.174

we've had two hundred and fifty people who have had potential exposures to this and a hundred and forty five

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00:20:18.174 --> 00:20:30.835

who've tested positive, so what we'd need to make what we've try to ensure is it that our whole team is addressing this across all of our providers and so Winslow's assigned his

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00:20:32.904 --> 00:20:40.765

nurse consultants to work with each of the providers and they also coordinate with our quality resource specialists

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172

00:20:41.184 --> 00:20:45.414

and the service coordinators, but he can talk about how they all work together in this.”

173 ~ **Winslow Woodland:**

00:20:46.464 --> 00:21:00.654

“So, the team, the health wellness team as well as the QRS staff have conducted the following in hopes to prevent slash mitigate the spread.

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00:21:00.954 --> 00:21:08.934

They're providing telephonic computer based technical assistance on mitigation. That is how to prevent the spread of the virus.

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00:21:09.234 --> 00:21:17.634

This includes homes that do not have people who have had exposure to COVID or people who have tested positive.

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00:21:17.875 --> 00:21:32.214

They also provide technical assistance to homes where people have tested positive and have been exposed to staff or other people who tested positive. Daily, they're tracking these cases.

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00:21:33.505 --> 00:21:46.525

We're tracking positive cases. We're tracking exposure providing TA in both of those settings, and this tracking is being shared with DC health on a daily basis.

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00:21:47.484 --> 00:21:51.894

We have a physician consultant who has been involved, when requested,

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00:21:52.170 --> 00:22:03.444

through our medically clinically complex process to actually involve, be involved in hospital live cases and/or people who are being treated at home.

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00:22:03.865 --> 00:22:11.815

Everyone who is hospitalized is followed by a nurse practitioner during their hospitalization through transitions,

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00:22:11.815 --> 00:22:13.615

back to their residential setting,

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00:22:13.615 --> 00:22:28.105

be it natural home or provider setting, at which point that particular post hospitalization transition is then handed off to the assigned nurse consultant for the respective provider.

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00:22:28.105 --> 00:22:41.214

And if it's a natural home, it's handed off to a nurse practitioner, who follows natural homes. Daily, we've been in communication with DC Health, we being the health and wellness team

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00:22:41.214 --> 00:22:42.055

And myself.

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00:22:42.234 --> 00:22:46.134

We've been discussing the development of testing resources

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00:22:46.375 --> 00:23:01.015

as they have been recommended and made available throughout the community and taking sharing information on requests from providers and tracking that with DC Health.

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00:23:01.345 --> 00:23:06.444

And we've been tracking positive COVID cases, exposures

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00:23:06.779 --> 00:23:21.744

And that would be staff as well as people serve. And in terms of mitigation, sharing the staff data with who then has databases of other types of settings where people who do this

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00:23:21.775 --> 00:23:27.984

in home type work could possibly be working ensuring that these people are not taking,

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00:23:28.285 --> 00:23:39.025

they're continuing to work after testing positive. As you heard the director say, many people who are testing positive, are asymptomatic. Many of you on the phone

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00:23:39.144 --> 00:23:44.724

may actually have a positive COVID test result without feeling a thing.

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00:23:46.255 --> 00:23:56.575

And then we've also developed training on mitigation strategies that have been shared with the respective provider clinical teams, mainly nurses.

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00:23:56.845 --> 00:24:08.154

And so, when we talk about the idea of a crisis team, there is no current magic bullet for the corona virus.

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00:24:08.454 --> 00:24:15.384

So, when we talk about a crisis term, it sounds very,

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00:24:17.214 --> 00:24:28.434

it sounds as though a crisis team would be able to solve this problem in real time, and what I'm telling you, we don't call our clinicians a crisis team.

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00:24:28.674 --> 00:24:43.434

What I'm telling you is that they are people on the ground every day working in the provider community to include primary care physicians, medical directors and nurses who work for providers, that are actually mitigating this crisis.

197

00:24:43.704 --> 00:24:57.865

We are seeing that every day. So, I don't know, like, if people want to call it a crisis team, we'll let you call it what it is, but everyday people are working to mitigate this virus."

198 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:25:32.394 --> 00:25:45.865

"What is DDS doing to ensure that when a staff person who works with multiple providers test positive for COVID, all of these providers are informed? How with DDS using the provider staff list it indicated it has compiled?"

199 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:25:48.505 --> 00:25:51.865

"I do want to say, first of all, we get reports every day,

200

00:25:53.634 --> 00:26:02.125

Or, as we get reports each day of staff who test positive, we share those with DC

201

00:26:02.125 --> 00:26:12.535

Health. Because I, I see questions about, you know, are we reaching out to providers to tell them that someone who works for them has tested positive?

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202

00:26:12.805 --> 00:26:27.085

No, we are not. We are not the public health agency and so that aspect of it is not something we do, but I do want to let Kirk speak to what we do in terms of, because we have collected this information.

203

00:26:27.325 --> 00:26:41.484

So, we are learning where, you know, if we get the report of a positive person, I don't know if we've gotten one yet, that we also know, now, that, that person works at multiple sites."

~ Kirk Dobson:

"Yes Director, there has been exactly one,

204

00:26:41.545 --> 00:26:51.115

that we see. One person who has worked at multiple sites. We, every time we can get a new staff name, we do compare that name to the list that we've compiled and we do a thorough search,

205

00:26:51.115 --> 00:27:05.545

I do it myself actually, to make sure that, you know, how many agencies they're working for and if we do identify someone we pass that on individually to DC Health, along with the list of everyone who test positive, staff wise, to DC Health as well.

206

00:27:05.815 --> 00:27:09.865

So, we, it's like a double check, just to make sure, and then we pass the information on as well."



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207 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:27:27.595 --> 00:27:35.634

"During last Friday's call reported that there were forty seven placements under what DDS would consider quarantine, what is the number now?"

208 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:27:40.285 --> 00:27:44.755

"I mean, I would have to

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00:27:47.035 --> 00:27:51.025

look at that. I had, I'm sorry,

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00:27:51.025 --> 00:27:53.244

I had come prepared last week with that number,

211

00:27:53.244 --> 00:28:05.335

because I looked at all of the who is currently quarantine when I was looking at my list and I didn't do the pivot to do that calculation today.

212

00:28:05.694 --> 00:28:10.255

I can be prepared in the future to report on that each week, if people would like."

213 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:28:17.065 --> 00:28:30.295

"Across the country, including our neighbors in Maryland, DDA agencies are releasing social media campaigns, letters, memos, etc, showing support and appreciation for direct support professionals. We have yet to see this done in DC.



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214

00:28:30.295 --> 00:28:39.625

Are there plans for this to happen in the future? Providers have done this themselves, but it would go a long way in terms of support and making people feel valued coming from DDS.”

215 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:28:40.555 --> 00:28:54.355

“So, I have tried to talk about this each week on our calls. The Mayor in her Mayor's order that was issued that extended the public health emergency until May fifteenth also recognized the contributions of all direct care staff.

216

00:28:55.914 --> 00:29:02.755

We'll be meeting next week, our leadership with the provider leadership, so I would like to hear more from them about steps

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00:29:02.755 --> 00:29:03.414

we can take.

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00:29:03.414 --> 00:29:04.045

As I've said,

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00:29:04.045 --> 00:29:07.944

each week here, at here as well



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220

00:29:07.944 --> 00:29:17.424

as in our provider meeting, how much I value the work that's being done by all the folks on the ground,

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00:29:17.424 --> 00:29:18.775

the direct support professionals,

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00:29:18.775 --> 00:29:23.394

and all the staff at our provider agencies who are really on the front line of this.

223

00:29:23.664 --> 00:29:30.384

So if there's more that we can do to communicate that, I'd certainly like to work with the providers to figure that out.

224

00:29:31.615 --> 00:29:45.204

Because, you know, as we get very busy on our end of trying to support providers, I do want to make sure that we're also communicating as clearly as we can, how much we value the work that they're doing."

225 ~ Crystal Thomas:

00:30:20.335 --> 00:30:20.755

"All right,

226

00:30:20.755 --> 00:30:35.605

we have a question in the text box asking...the types of services and supports from social workers and agencies in a disability communities need to change

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00:30:35.605 --> 00:30:37.345

completely post Corona.

228

00:30:37.795 --> 00:30:49.015

So, which organization should I send a strategic proposal beyond core service agencies including Mary center? Should I send the proposal to the Mayor's office or Office of Disability Rights?

229

00:30:49.015 --> 00:31:00.625

Can we create a new platform to integrate ideas and insights from patients and peers in a disability community into policies and practices?"

~ Director Andrew Reese:

"So, this is exactly what the Mayor's

230

00:31:02.545 --> 00:31:15.894

Reopen, reopen DC advisory group is all about. If you will go to [Coronavirus.dc.gov](https://coronavirus.dc.gov), there's a tab at the top it's called ReOpenDC,

231

00:31:16.375 --> 00:31:17.755

and in there,

232

00:31:18.085 --> 00:31:25.734

it's got share your ideas. And the Mayor is looking for people to share their ideas about how to make DC,

233

00:31:25.944 --> 00:31:38.394

even more inclusive equitable for everyone, after, we emerged from this public health emergency. And so please, go there.

234

00:31:38.575 --> 00:31:50.154

There's also a phone number where you can call and share your ideas, if you don't have access to the internet, and that number is two, zero, two, four, four, two, four, seven, five, five."

235 ~ Crystal Thomas:

00:32:00.984 --> 00:32:10.345

"We are so far from having community spread under control among people supported by DDS. This still is a crisis."

~ Director Andrew Reese:

"No one's questioning that.

236

00:32:11.634 --> 00:32:24.565

I think, I think Carol, you know, I don't want to get hung up on words here. This is how we're living every single day and so when people say that I have a crisis team,

237

00:32:24.744 --> 00:32:38.634

I get the idea of someone who goes out and fixes it. Well, this is actually our new way of life, where we have ten nurses who spend each and every day working with the providers assigned to them, making sure that they have the information

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00:32:38.634 --> 00:32:50.575

they need in each of their locations to ensure the safety of people. Whether it is that someone has tested positive or periodically reaching out to those were fortunately they've had none to date.

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00:32:53.724 --> 00:32:58.285

I don't disagree that we are.

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00:32:59.634 --> 00:32:59.934

I mean,

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00:32:59.934 --> 00:33:00.384

partly,

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00:33:00.384 --> 00:33:01.644

we're at the beginning of this,

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00:33:01.644 --> 00:33:10.285

because in order to move into a further phase of this and safety,



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244

00:33:10.434 --> 00:33:18.115

we have to be at a place where there's a vaccine and some reliable treatment and that's going to be quite some time.

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00:33:21.775 --> 00:33:22.404

So,

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00:33:22.855 --> 00:33:23.575

you know,

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00:33:25.734 --> 00:33:33.055

we are actually seeing some better numbers from seeing some more success by providers and so,

248

00:33:34.345 --> 00:33:34.944

you know,

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00:33:34.944 --> 00:33:39.025

I don't want to suggest anything about what that means that this point in time.

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00:33:39.625 --> 00:33:43.855

But no one is trying to downplay how serious this is.

251



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00:33:44.335 --> 00:33:55.015

We're just relaying to you how we have, what we believe, is a very strong structure in place to deal every day with the public health emergency that we're all dealing with."

252 ~ Winslow Woodland:

00:33:55.734 --> 00:34:08.844

"And, you know, I'd like to just add that if you have ideas of what you think we should be doing that we're not, please send them to me at Winslow.Woodland@DC.gov."

253 ~ Crystal Thomas:

00:34:09.414 --> 00:34:19.434

"How fast do we get the results after being tested?"

254 ~ Winslow Woodland:

00:34:20.394 --> 00:34:25.914

"That depends on who does the testing. So you would have to ask that in, at, the location where you get the testing done."

255 ~ Crystal Thomas:

00:34:34.105 --> 00:34:34.284

"Okay.

256

00:34:37.315 --> 00:34:51.204

Equity in vulnerable populations committee needs to continue after reopen DC disbands with representation from people with disabilities."

~ Director Andrew Reese:

"I'll just repeat.

257



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00:34:51.505 --> 00:34:54.715

Please go to the website, enter your ideas.

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00:34:56.335 --> 00:35:03.775

My understanding, as of my last meeting on Wednesday, was they've gotten over ten thousand ideas,

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00:35:03.775 --> 00:35:08.304

but please do enter ideas of this nature to,

260 - 261

00:35:12.414 --> 00:35:12.804 - 00:35:16.014 --> 00:35:19.525

to the website coronavirus.dc.gov,

262

00:35:20.065 --> 00:35:21.775

under the ReOpenDc tab.”

263 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:35:29.664 --> 00:35:31.405

“During last Friday's call,

264

00:35:31.465 --> 00:35:46.434

Winslow reported that there were at least one provider who had successfully use the process that DDS is coordinating with providers and the DC public lab to get appropriate people supported by DDS to be tested in that DDS has developed guidance

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265

00:35:46.465 --> 00:35:58.465

on instructions about how testing specimens should be obtained, how the chain of custody should be handled and how to arrange for carrier pickup to go through the DC public health lab.

266

00:35:58.644 --> 00:36:12.954

How many providers have used the process since then?"

~ **Winslow Woodland:**

"As of this week, we have had three providers who have used the process and the first provider to use

267

00:36:12.954 --> 00:36:18.324

it has used it a second time. It's one of our larger providers and to date,

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00:36:18.355 --> 00:36:31.675

we have twenty people from last week who have been tested and whose results are either have been returned and or in process.

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00:36:32.244 --> 00:36:47.184

What we also have learned this week, is that several of our providers had within their own resource has developed testing procedures to include those

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00:36:47.184 --> 00:36:53.574

who are using their actual primary care physician to obtain specimens and working with Labs.

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271

00:36:53.875 --> 00:36:55.045

We also had

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00:36:56.010 --> 00:37:04.105

providers who have used community based testing sites for people who, that's more appropriate.

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00:37:04.315 --> 00:37:16.195

And I just like to add that with regard to testing, you know, it's come to my attention that people have mentioned that they're multiple free testing sites and they're throughout the community.

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00:37:16.195 --> 00:37:19.945

And you heard the director mentioned several of those.

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00:37:20.454 --> 00:37:28.525

I just want to just share with you that the complexity of some of the coordination around that,

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00:37:28.525 --> 00:37:43.465

and putting people at risk by transferring them outside of their home to larger facilities and exposing them to others is the reason why we're working feverishly to ensure that in

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00:37:43.465 --> 00:37:48.235

home testing is available to those that would limit their risk of exposure.

278

00:37:49.554 --> 00:37:55.614

We're working on this every day to, to, to, to ramp it up as quickly as possible."

279 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:37:58.224 --> 00:38:13.135

"There's a comment asking about compiling the list of questions from past and present and so just wanted to remind everyone that our forums are recorded and posted to our website at DDS

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00:38:13.769 --> 00:38:28.554

and we also have transcripts available, free to access that as well. Can you confirm DDS is performing contact tracing in all settings?"

281 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:38:30.565 --> 00:38:43.315

"So let me just be clear. Contact tracing is a very specific public health epidemiology function. Are we doing that? No, we're not. The District, DC

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00:38:43.315 --> 00:38:51.324

Health, is currently actually, and you'll see on DCHR's website, hiring a number of people who will be doing contact tracing.

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00:38:53.965 --> 00:39:04.525

Are we tracking and monitoring all reports of contacts with someone who has tested positive?

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00:39:04.525 --> 00:39:18.144

Yes, but we are not the public health agency, and I wouldn't want to pretend to be, you know, doing a function that really is the DC Health epidemiology function."

285 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:39:24.175 --> 00:39:36.295

"What does DC Health do when they know staff who have tested positive work for multiple providers? Do they contact each provider to report that they are positive? If not why not?"

286 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:39:36.775 --> 00:39:38.545

"My understanding is that,

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00:39:38.545 --> 00:39:41.184

what they do is if they reach out to the person,

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00:39:41.425 --> 00:39:50.905

talk to that person about what that person needs to do to ensure their safety and the safety of the community.

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00:39:51.144 --> 00:40:03.655

The District has engaged in quite an extensive effort to ensure that people who test positive are able to stay home, that they get all the resources they need, I think,

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00:40:04.855 --> 00:40:18.894

I don't know about every agency, all the agencies in the health and Human Services cluster, have detailed staff who work on this project to reach out to people who've tested positive to check in to make sure that they have the resources

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00:40:18.894 --> 00:40:32.815

they need to not leave their home. And if you think about the work that the health department does in any other reportable disease, they do not go out disclosing people's health status to other people.

292

00:40:33.264 --> 00:40:45.445

They do have some level of police authority if they feel that a person causes a risk to the community, but they certainly don't start with disclosing people's health information. They do reach out to the person.

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00:40:45.750 --> 00:40:51.474

And my understanding from speaking with the person at DC health who is responsible for this,

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00:40:51.775 --> 00:41:02.664

they have not really had issues with people adhering to the guidance that they get about how to ensure their own health and the community safety."

295 ~ Crystal Thomas:

00:41:36.355 --> 00:41:38.994

"When public buildings have infected residence,

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296

00:41:39.175 --> 00:41:47.155

Like the Wah Luck House, would it be made known to the public to warn them? How do they keep the building clean and sanitized?”

297 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:41:47.724 --> 00:42:01.824

“So, you know, I have heard of buildings where people get a notice that a person in your building has tested positive and at the building has taken the following steps to clean all public areas. Keep in mind,

298

00:42:03.144 --> 00:42:03.445

you know,

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00:42:03.445 --> 00:42:17.605

we've talked several times today about people who are asymptomatic and positive. The fact that whether the building knows that someone is tested positive and makes people aware, what we should all be very aware of is

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00:42:18.414 --> 00:42:22.974

if we're going through a lobby have we touched the button on the elevator with our hand,

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00:42:22.974 --> 00:42:25.195

or can we touch it with something else?

302

00:42:25.614 --> 00:42:39.625

Are we careful to use something other than our hands when it's possible to open doors? If we do touch these things, are we careful not to then touch our face? Do we wash our hands as soon as we arrive home?

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00:42:40.105 --> 00:42:46.585

I know I keep hand sanitizer in my car for as soon as I leave the grocery store to clean my hands.

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00:42:47.635 --> 00:42:59.155

So being aware ourselves of the steps that we can take, because we should assume that someone with COVID had walked through the lobby before we did and touched everything.

305

00:42:59.755 --> 00:43:06.144

And so, you know, act as though that occurred and be careful in that manner."

306 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:43:24.775 --> 00:43:25.135

"Alright,

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00:43:25.135 --> 00:43:26.695

so we have one last question.

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308

00:43:28.525 --> 00:43:42.414

I would like to know how the DSP's or Aid's are being tested to make sure they're not infected especially when they need to go to their home and come back to work in the homes with people and the elderly?"

309 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:43:44.400 --> 00:43:44.699

"So,

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00:43:44.695 --> 00:43:46.795

that question, in the question,

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00:43:46.795 --> 00:43:50.364

pointed to the difficulty of the answer,

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00:43:50.815 --> 00:44:01.375

which is testing a DSP has very limited effectiveness in protecting people.

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00:44:01.885 --> 00:44:11.094

Because if you test a person today, all that you know, is that they, if they tested positive, you know, they tested positive

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00:44:11.094 --> 00:44:25.525

and it shouldn't work with anyone today. If they tested negative, they may still have had an exposure to COVID-19 and tomorrow, they may test positive and be contagious. So,

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00:44:26.394 --> 00:44:26.695

you know,

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00:44:26.695 --> 00:44:39.445

we all learned this this week from the White House where they test people every single week and yet they had a staff person who had been working there who then tested positive. And so,

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00:44:39.715 --> 00:44:40.135

you know,

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00:44:40.164 --> 00:44:41.454

testing people,

319

00:44:41.724 --> 00:44:50.514

I think, it, it leads us to feel like its some level of protection, but in many respects, it really isn't.

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00:44:50.784 --> 00:45:03.114

I mean, like I say, it, if someone has positive, we know that today, they need to go home, but if they test negative, we know very little. All we know is that today they don't test positive.

321

00:45:03.565 --> 00:45:13.135

And it doesn't mean that they were not exposed right before they walked into the house. It doesn't mean that they didn't just touch something that they're now going to touch you.

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00:45:14.065 --> 00:45:14.844

And so,

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00:45:15.414 --> 00:45:30.385

that is why it is essential that we're all aware of the steps that we can take, the sort of good hygiene steps, of making sure. When the Mayor put out her order regarding the different

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00:45:30.385 --> 00:45:33.144

placements for people who are considered a higher risk,

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00:45:33.324 --> 00:45:43.704

it spoke to the necessity when people arrive at work that they wash their hands as soon as they arrive with soap and water, that they use face covering while their there.

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00:45:44.875 --> 00:45:58.644

That they, to the extent, it's possible maintain social distance. So, you know, we all need to make sure that we're taking these steps. I understand the concern and about,

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327

00:45:59.664 --> 00:46:13.614

it's, it's the belief that, having people tested will give us some security, but, you know, in some respects having people tested could give a false sense of security and it could cause someone to believe that they don't present any risk.

328

00:46:13.704 --> 00:46:25.344

And then they might not be as careful to take all the necessary steps to ensure that they're being safe around other people. If they took a test today, and it says negative.

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00:46:26.364 --> 00:46:34.795

We see our own president walked around and say, I got a test today. I know, I don't need to wear a mask. We don't want people having that attitude.

330

00:46:34.974 --> 00:46:43.074

We want people to continue to ensure that they're taking all the steps necessary to ensure their own safety and everyone else's."

331 ~ Crystal Thomas:

00:47:10.494 --> 00:47:14.244

"How do people report violations of garbage disposal

332

00:47:14.635 --> 00:47:29.605

violations of PPE?"

~ Director Andrew Reese:

"I don't know that there are any. PPE is not something that's considered biological hazards that needs to be disposed of



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333

00:47:29.605 --> 00:47:30.684

in a particular way.

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00:47:32.545 --> 00:47:35.664

I don't believe, but like, you know, we're DDS. I'm not

335

00:47:37.164 --> 00:47:49.554

the health department.”

~ **Crystal Thomas:**

“DRDC had suggested greater specificity with respect to crisis team. I hope you're taking your suggestions on board.”

336 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:47:50.635 --> 00:48:04.704

“We have received them and we are considering them, thanks.

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00:48:05.724 --> 00:48:14.034

So next week we will be having a, one big forum.

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00:48:14.335 --> 00:48:27.235

So people may be aware, the Mayor's budget is supposed to be released on May the twelfth. Our budget hearing will be on two dates. Public testimony

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00:48:27.235 --> 00:48:41.844

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will be provided on May the twenty second and the executive testimony will be on May the twenty six. We will have a budget forum, so we're going to have just one call next week for everyone.

340

00:48:42.085 --> 00:48:55.045

And it will be”

~ **Crystal Thomas:**

May fifteenth from twelve to two.”

~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

“It will be a two hour session from twelve to two, next week, and we will walk through the DDS budget at that time with people.

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00:48:55.380 --> 00:49:05.425

So someone asked if the city council building is open for people to give testimony. No, it is not.

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00:49:05.425 --> 00:49:13.224

All testimony will be given remotely. People can sign up to give testimony.

343

00:49:17.364 --> 00:49:24.684

I'm not sure where the instructions are for that.”

~ **Kirk Dobson:**

“I would keep checking the council website for further information.”

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344 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:49:25.885 --> 00:49:34.284

“And we'll have instructions for people on how to do testimony when we have our budget forum next week.”

345 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:49:35.545 --> 00:49:43.585

“And so you'll receive invitations for our budget forum between today and Monday,

346

00:49:44.724 --> 00:49:48.414

with the access information for WebEx in the telephone number.”

347 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:49:54.175 --> 00:50:00.565

“Okay, thanks to everyone who's been able to join us and we will talk to you next week at noon.”